CIA Defends Recruiting Of Foreigners on Campus

NEW HAVEN, Conn. (AP)—Central Intelligence Agency Director Stansfield Turner said Saturday that the CIA recruits foreigners studying or teaching in the United States, but with no more secrecy than private business recruiting.

Turner told a meeting of the American Association of University Professors that the CIA seeks information sources "openly" on about 150 U.S. campuses.

Responding to a question by CIA critic Morton Halperin, who appeared on the same panel, Turner said the intelligence agency recruits "a few out of the 120,000" foreigners studying or teaching in this country.

"It is no more secretive than any of the other recruiting that we do," he added.

He told the audience of several hundred AAUP members that it was his first public statement about CIA recruitment of foreigners on U.S. campuses.

Questioned by Halperin about inquiries made without the knowledge of potential sources, Turner said the CIA recruiting process is no different from that of private businesses and universities. Recruiters often look for the best possible employes before approaching them directly, he said.

The CIA needs more assistance from the academic community in gathering information about "closed" foreign governments, he added. He criticized those who assume faculty members will be "tarnished if they associate with the CIA."

In response to questions about how faculty members working for the CIA should conduct themselves, Turner said he has been working for more than a year with a faculty leader from a "leading university . . . writing a specific code of ethics."

After the meeting he declined to identify the person.